



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for April 20, 2016

Date: April 20, 2016

Time: 730 PM

Location: Town Hall Annex, first floor conf. room

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnson, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Phil Goff, Doug Greenfield and Stephan Miller. Joey Glushko, Officer John Costa were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm

*Approval of the minutes from March meeting. The March minutes were approved as amended.

COBWEB. Officer Costa gave us a summary of police traffic initiatives for the Spring. He told us that he feels that the Mass. Ave. Redesign is a success. Traffic flow is good and there have been few bike/car crashes. Joey confirmed that the police will be accompanying us on the Bike Arlington Tour in May.

CLAMP project update. Christopher contacted the Town and they would like to have a meeting with us about the changes that we suggested to the plan for the Center Safe Travel Project that we suggested. Phil would like to see MassDOT attend that meeting since they have already approved the plans. We discussed the fact that the type of traffic light envisioned (HAWK) is not appropriate for the Swan Pl. bicycle and pedestrian crossing. After discussion, we decided that more thought needs to be expended before the signal is installed. Christopher will email the Town Manager to set up a meeting between ABAC, TAC, the Arlington Police and the Town Engineer. Our suggestions modifying sharrow placement will be implemented in the plan. Scott added that the Board of Selectmen approved the use of the Complete Streets Program in Arlington.

Phase II of the Arlington Center Redesign. Phil, who attended the public kickoff meeting, was disappointed by the knowledge displayed by the manager of the project. The project manager did not know that the CLAMP project was currently under way. Phil cautioned us that Phase II is just concept level planning and is currently not funded. He told us that there was a decent attendance at the meeting and people were interested in extending the bike lanes and redesigning Broadway Plaza to be more pedestrian friendly. Scott reported that there was a lot of discussion about the Broadway Plaza in his subgroup at the meeting.

Phil thinks that building a continuous bike lane from Rt. 2 to Rt. 60 is critical. Joey told us that the next step will be a "walkshop" on May 6 so people can point out trouble areas and actually visit them. A follow up meeting will be held on June 16 to collate these suggestions. Jack asked if Phase II could be used to upgrade the CLAMP infrastructure to protected bike lanes which are more in keeping with the current state of the art in bicycle accommodations.

League of American Bicyclists (LAB) Bike Friendly Communities application. Christopher gave us an update on the progress the LAB Application Working Group is making on the application. They are assembling the needed information and have started filling in the on line application form. For those interested in participating, the next working group meeting will be on May 4.

Bikeway trash pickup. Grace Church has volunteered to clean up the Bikeway along it's entire length. Grace is a large church in Lexington that can field many volunteers. We discussed how to go about advising them. We decided we needed to talk to them and lay down some guidelines. Christopher will arrange this meeting.

Bike Arlington Tour, to be held on May 15. Scott told us that the test ride went well and we are ready for the event. ELBY Bike (a manufacturer of electric bicycles) would like to participate and demonstrate their bicycles. Stephan thought it would be interesting to see a state of the art electric bicycle and perhaps test it. Joey will contact them and arrange their participation in the Tour. Scott thought that they should get a booth at Town Day for wider publicity in Arlington.

Somerville Brewery Event. We discussed the Brewery event in Somerville and our participation in it. ABAC will have a table and Doug, Phil and Scott will participate. They will figure out the logistics off line. Phil will pick up brochures and info from Joey at the end of the week.

Bicycle counts. Joey told us that bicycle counts on the Bikeway will take place in May and she has decided that we should forego the Mystic Valley Parkway counts this time around. Phil told us that EALS will be doing counts on Mass Ave this September. He thinks it will be interesting to see if there is an increase in bike traffic due to the redesign. We briefly discussed the Alewife/Broadway intersection which needs redesign to make it more bicycle friendly and safer for all modes . This effort will require cooperation with Somerville and the DCR.

Agenda topics for June Tri-Community Bicycle Committee meeting. Joey asked for suggestions for agenda items for the next meeting in June.

Town Bicycle Plan. Joey told us that we have the support of the planning department for the writing of this document. She also said that we should start thinking about beginning this process. Christopher suggested that we use the LAB application as an outline for writing the plan. We decided that that we should sponsor a forum to determine what other bicyclists in town would like to see included.

Town Day booth. Joey showed us an example of a fluorescent vest that we might be giving out at Town Day. She told us that the Law firm that subsidizes the helmet giveaway every year would also like to subsidize the giveaway of the vests. Scott suggested reflective leg and wrist bands as a alternative if the vest giveaway doesn't come about.

Other topics.

Scott told us that the Green Line Extension public meetings are happening and the extension of the Somerville Community Path hangs in the balance.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller